



Traditionally, I have been taught to begin a letter like this one with the words "To whom it may concern", but it **has** become **appalling**ly obvious to me that not enough people are actually Concerned. I want to voice my opinion on the new regulations the **FCC** is considering in regards to medii ownership. Before any changes in regulations **are** made, I **just** want you to consider the ramifications of allowing even more media giants to control our news **outlets**.

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Media conglomerates **can** provide an extremely bias source of news. They twist the truth **so** that it benefits the company and the **status quo**. The media must be open to **alternative** ideas **or** we **are** neglecting some **of** the very freedoms that **so** many people **flock** to our country to enjoy. In **1776**, Thomas Paine wrote a pamphlet called **common sense**. It jolted a rude awakening for England, and inspired the hearts **of** many American colonists. I'm just glad **that** in those days, the media was not dominated by a few profit oriented companies.

Especially in this time of looming war, the American people cannot afford to be denied their right to **see** news of **many** different biases, be it conservative, liberal, or otherwise. (Yes, I am assuming **that** n e w will be bias no **matter** what.) Other news **sources** must be available **so** that we can make educated decisions about a topic at hand, after seeing both sides of it.

In lieu of the events of September 11, I think it would be simply un-American to monopolize the media. There **are** definitely newsgroups **that** present underdog, extremist views, but I'm proud to be a citizen of a country where extremists **can** voice their opinions **through** the media, and not by strapping a bomb to themselves. (**No**, that's not a bomb threat; you can call off the dogs.)

I **am** only fifteen years old; I **can** only do **so** much. You have **the** power. I **insist**, as a patriotic American, that you do everything in your power to promote journalistic variety (if not integrity), and I plead, that you will do **everything** possible to prevent large companies from completely monopolizing the media. The torch is in your hands now, I **can** only pray that the ideals and freedoms I have been taught to **appreciate**, will prevail over the system. I still **have** faith in freedom of **speech**; I have faith in the constitution that has made **this** country the great nation that it is. Please, don't disappoint me.

Sincerely, a concerned American,

Scott W. Nicewonger II

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